

15 January 1954

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Economic Research

FROM : Deputy Chief, Economic Research

SUBJECT : Staff Study on the Establishment of a File of Data  
on Who's Who in Economics in the Soviet Bloc.

1. The attached staff study presents the pros and cons on the subject of the establishment of a file on Who's Who in Economics in the Soviet Bloc and appears to be more con than pro.

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2. I think [REDACTED] has hit the nail on the head in his proposed alternative solution; namely, that you issue a research directive urging the analysts to make use of available biographical data. The choice seems to me to be between having you issue an urging memorandum and a demanding memorandum. I prefer the latter.

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3. It seems altogether incomprehensible to me that, as both [REDACTED] seem to assume, the analysts would not learn something of intelligence value as a result of being on top of the personalities involved and the organizational framework within which they work. None of these specialized organizations that keep files on personalities for the sake of keeping files could be expected to be able to spot the significance of sudden or periodic changes in the assignment of officials within the Soviet Bloc. On the other hand, the analysts who are trying to understand what the Soviets are doing, the problems that confront them, and the success or failure of their production efforts, should be able to learn a great deal from merely following personnel changes. I remember one

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we would have missed the point of this significant development. I think that it is unfair to the machine method system of keeping biographical files to criticize the machines for missing the point. Therefore, I find myself in complete disagreement with the basic assumption that [REDACTED] make with respect to the intelligence value of the Who's Who file. What is your decision?

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